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15AM-TROOPS

WASHINGTON, SEPT 1: REUTER - SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE MAY RAISE WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO, U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET TROOPS IN CUBA WHEN THE TWO MEN MEET AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY LATER THIS MONTH, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

ONE OFFICIAL SAID IT WOULD BE "COMMON SENSE" FOR THE ISSUE TO COME UP IF THE MATTER IS NOT RESOLVED BY THEN.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID YESTERDAY IT HAD EVIDENCE THAT BETWEEN 2,000 TO 3,000 SOVIET COMBAT TROOPS WERE IN CUBA, AND HAD VOICED SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE RUSSIANS ABOUT THE PRESENCE.

CUBA HAS NOT COMMENTED OFFICIALLY ON THE U.S. CLAIMS BUT CUBAN OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY DISMISSED THEM AS A FANTASY.

TWO SENATORS HAVE URGED THAT THE SENATE DEBATE ON RATIFYING THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY (SALT II) BE HELD UP UNTIL THE TROOPS ISSUE IS RESOLVED.

CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED THAT THE SOVIET TROOPS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THIS COUNTRY, AND HAVE DISCOURAGED SPECULATION THAT THE ISSUE HAS THE SAME EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL AS THE 1962 CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS. 2
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15AM-TROOPS 2 WASHINGTON

BUT IT IS THE SECOND DIPLOMATIC BRUSH BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW WITHIN A WEEK, FOLLOWING THE CONFRONTATION OVER SOVIET BALLERINA LYUDMILA VLASOVA LAST WEEKEND.

IN THAT INCIDENT, U.S. AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO LET MISS VLASOVA'S AIRCRAFT LEAVE NEW YORK'S KENNEDY AIRPORT FOR THREE DAYS UNTIL THEY INTERVIEWED HER OFF THE PLANE TO DETERMINE IF SHE WANTED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY OR STAY WITH HER DEFECTOR HUSBAND, BOLSHOI BALLET STAR ALEXANDER GODUNOV.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID YESTERDAY IT DID NOT KNOW WHY THE SOVIET TROOPS WERE IN CUBA AND IT WAS PURSUING ITS INVESTIGATION OF THEIR MISSION.

OBSERVERS SPECULATED THAT THE TROOPS WERE SENT TO STRENGTHEN CUBAN DEFENSES BECAUSE OF THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CUBAN TROOPS OPERATING IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE.

SENATOR RICHARD STONE, A FLORIDA DEMOCRAT, HAS ASSERTED THAT THE RUSSIAN PRESENCE WAS AIMED AT INTIMIDATING LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS AND MIGHT HELP REBEL MOVEMENTS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

SENATORS ROBERT DOLE (REPUBLICAN, KANSAS) AND HARRY BYRD (INDEPENDENT, VIRGINIA) SPOKE UP YESTERDAY AGAINST THE SOVIET TROOPS IN CUBA, LINKING THIS WITH THE SALT II DEBATE. 2
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